

# The NIDDK Fellows Newsletter

## December 2008

### Upcoming Events

#### Teaching at predominantly undergraduate Institutions

December 11, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10

Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions, which emphasize teaching and education, include liberal arts colleges and comprehensive universities offering undergraduate and master's degrees. This panel discussion addresses the teaching duties, research programs, and daily life of a faculty member at a predominantly undergraduate institute. Panelists will also provide guidance for getting jobs at such institutions.

#### Speakers:

Ann K. Corsi, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, The Catholic University of America

Ricky Hirschhorn, PhD, Professor of Biology and Director of the Graduate Biomedical Science Program, Hood College

Jochen Mueller, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology, Morgan State University

Sponsored by the Career Development Committee of FelCom.

Cost: **Free**

#### FelCom Socials

#### FelCom / GSC Holiday Party

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 6-11 p.m.

FAES house 9101 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda

([http://www.faes.org/social\\_center.htm](http://www.faes.org/social_center.htm))

- A jazz band will perform during the party
- This is a family friendly event: children come for free and will receive holiday gifts (while supplies last)!

The tickets are on sale now for \$10, and if you buy your ticket in advance at the locations below, you will be entered into a raffle to win a **\$25 VISA gift card** during the party!

- **Cost: \$10** for all you can eat and drink

### Visit to the National Cathedral

December 13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday.

For more information about social events contact Chaya Pooput:

[pooputc@niddk.nih.gov](mailto:pooputc@niddk.nih.gov)

The Fellows Advisory Board (FAB) in collaboration with the NIDDK Fellowship Office has started a monthly newsletter to announce events and news. If you would like to help write articles for the newsletter or have an idea for what should be included please contact [rasika@niddk.nih.gov](mailto:rasika@niddk.nih.gov).

## Exploration into Science Careers

By Erica Rosemond

Sometimes I think that my approach to finding the right career for me is a bit schizophrenic. My friends and lab-mates find my career explorations highly entertaining and allow me to “try-on” a new career every day, week or month. I believe that one has to do these things to really see if the career will work with one’s personality and style. Yes, we all need “jobs” but if you have the time and start early enough within your postdoc, then it is worth it to explore different careers. Some of the careers I have explored are grants manager, regulatory reviewer at the FDA, pharmacologist at a small biotech company, academic researcher, researcher at the Discovery channel for Medical Mysteries (love that show!), pharmacologist at the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), staff scientist, and science policy. All of these careers had my own personal pros and cons that I rated and thought seriously about. So here is some useful information from my exploration into a possible career at FDA and the seminar that I am reporting about this month.

This month’s Career Development Seminar from NIDDK/NHLBI introduced us to life at CBER within the FDA. Did you know that CBER (Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research) is right here on the NIH campus – in building 29? Dr. Ira Berkower, Lab Chief, Lab of Immunoregulation, Office of Vaccine Research and Review gave an excellent seminar about how CBER came to being and how to pursue a career in CBER.

There are two ways of joining CBER if you have a PhD: 1) through the GS system as a staff fellow (there are over 13,000 employees in the FDA) and/or 2) as an ORISE fellow (~338 fellows in CBER). American citizenship or a green card (permanent residency) is required for the positions. Within this position one does research and regulatory work. Regulatory work includes reviewing safety and efficacy of IND (investigational new drug) applications. By year 7 you can become a Staff Scientist - a permanent position and you are promoted to GS-13 level. You must be an American citizen at this time. The process is based on a site visit and an inside review of your performance. Dr. Berkower stressed that the FDA is actively hiring and since the current crop of employees are getting older, much of the workforce will be retiring within the next 10 years. The position requires critical and analytical thinking and scientific writing abilities, all of which are skills that all PhDs possess. When asked how to *exactly* find a position in CBER, Dr. Berkower suggested that you directly contact the person you are interested in working with.

Yet, there are several other ways of getting into CBER and you can find open positions and interesting investigators from the FDA website:

<http://www.fda.gov/cber/inside/vacancy.htm>  
<http://www.fda.gov/cber/research/rschovr.htm>

There are regular postdoc positions within CBER that you can find on the NIH postdoc website:

<http://www.training.nih.gov/apps/publicForms/postdoctoral/forms/adIndex.aspx>

There is the FDA Commissioner's Program that was initiated this fall and the stipend is the same as a reviewer. A person gets trained as a reviewer and gets to do research. Deadline ~ February 1, 2009.

<http://www.fda.gov/commissionersfellowships/default.htm>

There is also the joint training program between the FDA and NCI where you get to do bench research and review (you don't have to be an NCI fellow to apply). Deadline ~ September 1, 2009.

<http://iotftraining.nci.nih.gov/prevent.html>

So check out these programs if you are interested in regulatory review AND staying at the bench!

For NERDY holiday cheer, check out

<http://www.ncbe.reading.ac.uk/DNA50/cocktail.html>

